BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Services,

1937.

J. & W. GRIFFIN, LTD., WALSALL.

BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Public Health Services,

1937.

R. G. BRADFORD, M.D., M.M.S.A.,
Medical Officer of Health (Part-Time).

HORACE PEACOCK, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector (Full-Time).

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(Present Constitution.)

Councillor J. BLAKEMORE, J.P., *Chairman.*

Councillor H. CLIFF,
Chairman of the Council.

Councillor R. A. JONES,
Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Councillors S. T. Breeze, J.P.
C. Collins, C.C.
G. Cooper, J.P.
H. V. Emery.
R. J. Humphries, J.P.
J. Lawley.
D. Marklew.
J. A. Robson.
L. Sadler.

OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

R. G. BRADFORD, M.D., M.M.S.A.,
Medical Officer of Health.

HORACE PEACOCK, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Chief Sanitary Inspector
(Certified Meat & Food Inspector).

D. A. BRADBURY, M.S.I.A.,
Additional Inspector.

R. CLIFF, Clerk.

H. V. SPEAKE, Ambulance Official.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1937.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Brownhills Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It gives me pleasure to present to you my Report for 1937.

The following is a short summary of the chief points of interest in connection with the work carried out by the Sanitary Department, and of work directly connected with the Health Department.

The number of new houses erected during the year is 287.

87 by private enterprise.
200 by the Local Authority.

It will be seen from this that the number of houses erected by private enterprise is almost double that of last year.

The number of houses in our district is 5,253.

The population, estimated to the middle of the year, is 19,540.

This gives the average number of persons to each house as 3.7.

The number of conversions of privies and pails to water closets during the year is 111.

Forty-seven houses were demolished.

Although the work on the new Norton Canes Sewage and Sewage Disposal Scheme has not yet commenced, it is anticipated that very soon the work will be well on its way.

The area of our district is 6,307 acres.

The rateable value is £60,282.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £220.

The following are extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year relating to the net births and deaths after corrections for inward and outward transfers:—

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	355	182	173
Illegitimate	6	3	3

The birth rate per 1,000 of population is 18.4.

STILL BIRTHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	15	5	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births is 39.8.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
DEATHS	238	141	97

Death rate per 1,000 of population is 12.1.

Corrected by the factor for our district it is 14.0

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other Puerperal causes	1

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births . . 2.6.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Total.	Male.	Female.
31	21	10

DEATH RATE OF ALL INFANTS per 1,000 live births	85
LEGITIMATE INFANTS per 1,000 live births	80.3
ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS for 1,000 Illegitimate live births	333
Deaths from Cancer, all ages	22
Measles, all ages	1
Whooping Cough, all ages	2
Diarrhœa, under 2 years	Nil.

Statistics for England and Wales, London, 125 County Boroughs and great towns and 148 smaller towns, and for our own district, are given in the following table.

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Urban District of Brownhills
	Rates per 1,000 Population				
Births :—					
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3	18.4
Still	0·60	0·67	0·64	0·54	0·76
Deaths :—					
All Causes	12·4	12·5	11·9	12·3	12·1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·02	0·03	0·02	0·01	0·05
Scarlet Fever ..	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·05
Whooping Cough ..	0·04	0·04	0·03	0·06	0·10
Diphtheria	0·07	0·08	0·05	0·05	0·10
Influenza	0·45	0·39	0·42	0·38	0·20
Violence	0·54	0·45	0·42	0·51	0·92
Notifications :—					
Smallpox	0·00	—	0·00	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	2·33	2·56	2·42	2·09	3·22
Diphtheria	1·49	1·81	1·38	1·93	0·81
Enteric Fever ..	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·05	0·00
Erysipelas	0·37	0·43	0·34	0·44	1·89
Pneumonia	1·36	1·58	1·20	1·18	4·29
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60	85
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0	0·00
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ..	0·97	Not	available		0·00
Others	2·26				2·77
Total	3·23				2·77
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ..	0·94	Not	available		0·00
Others	2·17				2·65
Total	3·11				2·65
Notifications :—					
Puerperal Fever / Puerperal Pyrexia	13.93	17.59	11·52	4·15 / 14·34	18·61

DEATHS.

The total deaths number 238 —

141 Males ... 97 Females.

This gives a death rate of 12.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

The death rate, corrected by the factor for our district, 1.16, is 14.0.

The corrected death rate for 1936 was 13.3.

The rate for England and Wales is 12.4.

The causes of death are given below.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
All Causes	141	97	238
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	2	2
Diphtheria	1	1	2
Influenza	2	2	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	4	6
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1	2
Syphilis	—	1	1
General Paralysis	1	—	1
Cancer	12	10	22
Diabetes	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	4	9	13
Heart Disease	26	31	57
Aneurysm	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	3	7
Bronchitis	8	1	9
Pneumonia	16	4	20
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Peptic Ulcer	3	—	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Other Liver Diseases	—	1	1
Other Digestive Disorders	4	2	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	5	2	7
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Diseases	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and Marasmus	13	7	20
Senility	4	—	4
Suicide	2	—	2
Violent Deaths	13	5	18
Other defined Diseases	11	5	16

Compared with last year there is an increase of 16 in the total deaths.

The increase is chiefly due to a greater number of deaths from Pneumonia, Nephritis, Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and Violent Deaths.

Deaths from Cancer, Heart Disease, and Pulmonary Tuberculosis showed little variation.

BIRTHS.

The births, excluding still births, numbered 361—
Males 185 ... Females 176.

Six of these births were Illegitimate.

There were 14 Illegitimate births last year, and an average of 12 per year for the preceding 10 years.

The birth rate is 18.4 per thousand of the population.

Last year the rate was 18.7.

Rate for England and Wales: 14.9.

Still Births numbered 15. Rate per 1,000 of population 0.76.

Rate per 1,000 for last year was 0.93.

Rate for England and Wales is 0.60.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of Infants under one year was 31. This gives a death rate of 85 per 1,000 births.

The rate for last year was 72.7.

The rate for England and Wales is 58.

Rates for last 10 years:—

1927, 84.5	...	1932, 85
1928, 63.1	...	1933, 79.4
1929, 56.3	...	1934, 70.9
1930, 95.2	...	1935, 72.7
1931, 58.6	...	1936, 69.4

Our Infantile Mortality rate is far from being a satisfactory one.

An analysis of the deaths shows that the causes, with a certain degree of probability, can be attributed to:—

(1) Maternal Causes: that is, deaths due to premature birth and Congenital Debility. The influence causing death has been present during pregnancy. Seventeen deaths were from this cause.

(2) Improper Feeding—one death.

(3) Malformation incompatible with life accounted for two deaths.

(4) Infections—that is, deaths due to Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Meningitis, and other causes where infection is an important factor. There were 10 deaths from this source. One death was attributed to operation and the anæsthetic.

Ante-natal influences were therefore responsible for more than half the deaths.

	Under 1 month	Months 1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–6	6–9	9–12	Total
Premature Birth, Congenital Debility, Marasmus and Malformation	18	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	4
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Gastro Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Mastoiditis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Operation	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total ..	18	2	—	2	1	2	3	3	31

LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS.

The following table gives the examinations made by the County Laboratory, Stafford, for our district:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Diphtheria Swabs—
Negative, 175; Positive, 10.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—
Negative Sputum, 49; Positive Sputum, 6.

Dysentery—
Negative Fæces, 4; Positive Fæces, 3 (Sonne type).

Menningococcus—
Negative Swabs from Pharynx, 7.

Typhoid Fever—
Blood Negative, 1.

NURSING IN THE HOME, ADOPTIVE ACTS, AND AMBULANCE SERVICE.

All three parts of the district now enjoy the services of a District Nurse.

The Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws in force in our district are given fully in the 1935 Report.

Nine hundred and forty-seven calls were made by the Ambulance during the year.

The Ambulance now in use has served our district for a considerable time.

It is not as comfortable for patients as might be desired.

I should like to recommend that a new, modern Ambulance be purchased at an early date.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table gives the infectious diseases reported during the year. These are given under age groups.

	Under 1 year	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–65	65 & over	Total	Removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	—	1	3	1	6	20	22	6	1	2	1	—	63	12
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	12	2	1	—	—	—	—	16	9
Pneumonia	3	1	8	5	5	12	6	4	18	9	11	2	84	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	8	13	5	8	37	—
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	7	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 63 cases of Scarlet Fever notified, 12 of which were removed to hospital.

In January and February 13 cases were notified, three during March, April, May, seven during June, July and August. The last four months of the year were responsible for 40 of the cases.

There was one death from Scarlet Fever.

Most of the cases were of a mild nature.

DIPHTHERIA.

Sixteen cases of Diphtheria were notified, nine of which were sent to hospital.

Two of the cases died.

The greatest number of cases were notified in November, otherwise they were fairly evenly distributed throughout the year.

All cases of Diphtheria receive Anti-diphtheritic Serum at once.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation of school children is being done by the School Medical Officer, Dr. Thompson.

In all cases the immunising agent used was three doses T.A.F. (Borroughs Welcome) at fortnightly intervals followed by Schick test in 4—6 months.

The following table gives the result of his work.

No. of Children Immunised	Schick Negative following Immunisation	Schick Positive following Immunisation	Schick Negative following Immunisation	Persistent Schick Positive	Reactions
110	106	4	4	Nil	Nil

Dr. Thompson tells me that, taking the district as a whole, the response by parents is very discouraging. This is obvious from the small number of children immunised during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

I am glad to be able to report that several of the Authorities are combining to provide an Infectious Diseases

Hospital for the southern part of the County. The scheme is awaiting the sanction of the Ministry of Health, which, it is earnestly hoped, will be forthcoming at an early date.

As we have no Isolation Hospital for our district, we have had to depend upon neighbouring authorities to take our cases in. Those authorities have on every occasion given us every help and consideration possible. It has frequently happened, however, that they were unable to take cases that urgently required isolation. My Council hope that the scheme will be sanctioned without delay.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PYREXIA.

Seven cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, one of which was sent to Hospital.

There were no deaths from this cause.

PNEUMONIA.

Eighty-four cases of Pneumonia were notified.

There were 20 deaths, a case mortality of 23.3 per hundred cases.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 „	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 „	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 „	2	3	1	—	—	1	1	—
25 to 35 „	—	2	3	—	—	3	—	—
35 to 45 „	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
45 to 55 „	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55 to 65 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	12	8	6	3	1	5	2	—

There were six deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, all of which had been notified before death.

There were nine cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified. Two of those died. Neither of the cases was notified before death. Both cases died in hospital.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases notified	8
,, treated at home ...	8
,, in Hospital	Nil.
Vision unimpaired	8
Vision impaired	Nil.
Total blindness	Nil.
Deaths	Nil.

CANCER.

There were 22 deaths from this disease—12 males and 10 females.

The organs affected are given below:—

Colon	9
Stomach	6
Glands of Neck ...	2
Larynx	1
Pharymx	1
Bladder	1
Kidney	1
Scrotum	1

Age Distribution of Cancer.

	1-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	over
Cancer ...	—	—	1	4	2	1	4	7	2
Sarcoma..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sex Distribution.

Males.		Females.
12	...	10

My work has been greatly facilitated by the helpful interest shown by the Health Committee, and by the help and advice of my colleagues in other departments. I also take this opportunity to thank the two Sanitary Inspectors for their loyal support during the year.

Yours faithfully,

R. G. BRADFORD.

REPORT BY MR. HARRISON, SURVEYOR.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Shelfield and High Heath Sewerage.

The construction of the valley sewers has been completed, and all sewage now gravitates to Rushall Pumping Station, where it is dealt with by the Goscote Joint Sewerage Committee. The cost of the scheme was £11,000 and the present dry weather flow 92,000 gallons per day.

Norton Canes Sewage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council has received sanction for the borrowing of £51,000 for this work. The Contract has been let, and an early start is expected in the work.

Sewage Farm.

During the past year two new sedimentation tanks with a capacity of 80,000 gallons each have been constructed and the existing tanks strengthened, and all provided with sufficient sludging valves.

A new circular filter is being provided, fitted with rotary distributor and dosing apparatus, and this, when completed, will deal with 70,000 gallons of sewage per day during dry weather.

SCAVENGING.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year January, 1937 to December, 1937.

No. of loads removed	17,180
No. of tons removed	14,603
No. of bins emptied	169,943
No. of pails emptied	21,008
Houses dealt with, excluding those with bins and pails	8,404
Ashpits emptied	4,742
Loads per house average	2.044
Loads per ashpit average	3.623
Cost per load of removal	3/8½d.
Cost per ton of removal	4/4½d.
Refuse per head of population	15 cwts. (approx.)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

ON THE

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF BROWNHILLS.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the Brownhills Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,

It is with pleasure that I present my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the district for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

In compiling this Report careful regard has been paid to the requirements of the Ministry of Health in their Circular 1650. Personally I am satisfied that considerable improvements have been made in the district with the minimum amount of friction.

I am extremely grateful to the Health Committee for their support and sympathy upon matters submitted for their consideration, to the Medical Officer of Health for his assistance and guidance, and to the members of the Staff for their willing service at all times. To my colleagues in other departments also I wish to express my appreciation for their assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

HORACE PEACOCK,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district derives its public supply of water from the mains of the South Staffordshire Water Works Company.

Five samples of the water were taken during the year, and in each case the Analyst reported that the water was of excellent quality.

The number of wells in the district is gradually diminishing, due in some instances to the demolition of the houses under the Housing Acts.

Samples were taken from ten wells during the year, the action resulting therefrom being as follows:—

Sample 1.—Water unsafe for drinking purposes. House to be demolished.
2.—Water satisfactory.
3.—Water unsafe. House being dealt with under Housing Acts. Letter to owner and tenant re supply.
4.—Water satisfactory.
5.—Water unsafe. House to be dealt with under the Housing Acts.
6.—Water satisfactory.
7.—Water satisfactory.
8.—Water safe, but owners laid on a public supply.
9.—Water satisfactory.
10.—Water satisfactory.

The few wells still remaining are on the outskirts of the district.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Quite a deal of work has been carried out during the year in connection with conversion, the number of old types of sanitary convenience remaining in the Walsall Wood and Ogley Hay Wards is few.

At the time of going to press, work on the Norton Canes Sewage Disposal Scheme had been commenced, and the time cannot be now far distant when the residents of Norton Canes Ward will be able to enjoy improved amenities.

Particulars of Conversions, Etc.

W.C.'s. provided in lieu of Privies	89
W.C.'s provided in lieu of Pails	22
Additional W.C.'s provided (excluding new houses)	3

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION EXISTING

On December 31st, 1931, and December 31st, 1937.

	1931.	1937.
Number of Houses and other premises ...	4,047	5,253
,, ,, ,, served by W.C.'s ...	1,759	4,470
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Privies ...	1,466	308
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Pails ...	570	432
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Bins ...	1,146	3,934
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Ashpits ...	1,766	1,017

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Records of Inspections and Results.

Inspections made with respect to :—	Number of Inspections.	Nuisances or defects reported.	Re-visits made with respect to	Nuisances or defects remedied.
Houses under P.H.A. ..	289	1,044	863	841
Sanitary Accommodation	204	189	461	164
Overcrowding	407	167	88	137
Ashes Accommodation ..	231	203	418	174
Water Supply	52	30	61	23
Drains (Defects) ...	65	51	125	48
Accumulations ...	34	28	40	23
Animals	21	16	42	8
Rats and Mice ...	11	5	29	2
Caravans	78	43	162	37

Other Visits.

With respect to Cinemas, etc. ...	10
With respect to Schools	23

Notices Served, and Results.

	Served.	Complied with.	Outstanding.
Preliminary ...	207	172	45
Statutory	45	40	5

SHOPS ACTS, 1934.

With respect to:—	No. of Notices Served.	Notices complied with.
Sanitary conveniences	4	1
Ventilation ...	1	1
Temperature ...	1	1

The three notices not complied with were served towards the end of the year. The work is in hand.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Observations have been taken and advice given where necessary in connection with the pollution of atmosphere by smoke, etc.

Improvements were made at one colliery, the stack of which was causing considerable nuisance to the occupants of houses in that vicinity.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

Brownhills is extremely lucky in that the number of houses reported as being infested with bugs is few.

Number of Council houses reported as being infested	4
Number of Council houses disinfested ...	4
Number of Private houses reported as being infested	3
Number of Private houses disinfested ...	3

Before tenants are removed to Council houses from houses known to be infested with bugs, bedding and bedclothes are disinfested by steam and the houses thoroughly sprayed with solution "B," this work being carried out by Council employees.

Should houses be found to be badly infested, arrangements could be made with a neighbouring authority for disinfestation by Hydrogen Cyanide.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT SCHOOLS.

Generally speaking, the sanitary accommodation at schools is very good indeed. One exception, however, is that

of Ogley Hay Junior Mixed School, where the old-fashioned trough closets are still used.

The authorities concerned have been approached with a view to substituting wash-down pedestal water closets in lieu thereof.

HOUSING.

General Conditions.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) By private enterprise ...	87
(b) By the Local Authority	200
Total ...	287

Overcrowding.

The following are particulars of the number of Council houses allocated by the Health Committee during the year.

Reason for Removal.	Families Re-housed.
Overcrowding and unfit houses ...	78
Individual unfit houses only (Housing Acts)	23
Overcrowding with T.B. in family ...	4
Tuberculosis only	7

Four hundred and seven primary visits were made in connection with re-housing.

Demolitions.

Forty-seven houses were demolished during the year and twenty-four demolition orders were made.

The five-year programme respecting proposed action under the Housing Acts was surpassed and a revised programme submitted.

In a district of this description it is very difficult to estimate the number of houses likely to be dealt with in any given period owing to subsidence. Houses which were not included in the programme have been fractured so badly that they must of necessity be dealt with under the demolition sections of the Housing Acts, even though they were not included in the programme, hence the necessity for periodic revision.

Repair Works.

Considerable repair works have been carried out by owners to property in the district, but again difficulty has been experienced in obtaining compliance with notices, not because owners were reluctant to have the works executed, but owing to difficulty in obtaining contractors to do the work. At the present moment contractors are concentrating upon new buildings.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts...	346
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,024
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	45
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	102
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	91
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	321

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	264

3. Action under Statutory powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	4

(2) Number of dwelling - houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	4
(b) By the Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	41
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	36
(b) By the Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	25
(2) Number of dwelling - houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	47

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding:

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	52
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	60
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	394
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	63
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	321
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS: REGISTRATIONS, Etc.

UNDER THE MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922, AND THE MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

	1936.	Discontinued.	Additions.	1937.
Retailers ...	78 ...	4 ...	3 ...	77
Producers ...	34 ...	3 ...	2 ...	33

Improvements have been made to six cowsheds as follows:—

1. New floors, troughs, windows, doors, paving, and drainage. Additional ventilation provided.
2. Cowshed taken down and rebuilt on modern lines.
3. Cowshed taken down and rebuilt on modern lines.
4. Cowshed reconstructed.
5. Cowshed reconstructed. New drains laid.
6. Public supply of water laid on to house, cowshed and dairy.

Four complete new dairies have also been provided.

I am particularly pleased with the improvements made in this direction and the work has been far more extensive than can be judged by the above remarks.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

During the year 115 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and 114 for the presence of Tuberculosis. The following are particulars of analyses:—

Description of Samples.	BACTERIOLOGICAL CONTENTS.									TUBERCULOSIS	
	No. taken for.		Methylene B'ue Test.		Coliform Organisms.					Negative.	Positive
	Bacteriological count	Presence of T.B.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	None in 1c.c.	None in 1/10c.c	None in 1/100c c.	None in 1/1000c c.	In 1/1000c.c.		
LOOSE	113	112	80	33	66	Nil.	15	8	24	109	3
GRADED MILK											
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	1	—	Bacteriological Count. 38,000 organisms per c.c.					1	—
Pasteurised	1	1	1	—	13,000 organisms per c.c.					1	—

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER.

There are no producers of Graded Milks under the above Order in this district.

The following licences were granted:—

Tuberculin Tested	2
Accredited	1
Pasteurised	5

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT AND PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS, 1924.

There are at present 15 Slaughterhouses in the district.

Slaughterhouses, market-shops and stalls have received regular inspection. Conditions as to cleanliness were found on the whole to be good, but attention was, on a few occasions, called to the delay in cleansing the floors of slaughterhouses following slaughter. A number of improvements have been carried out during the year, especially as regards cold storage facilities.

The following is a record of inspections made:—

Slaughterhouses	1,489
Shops	361
Market inspections	101
Food-preparing premises ...	87

The number of animals inspected during the year were as follows:—

Beasts	960
Sheep and Lambs	2,591
Pigs	1,948
Calves	29
Total ...	5,528

In no case was it found necessary to make formal seizure of diseased meat.

One butcher was cautioned with respect to his apparent disregard of certain minor provisions of the Public Health Meat Regulations. The caution had its effect.

SUMMARY OF DISEASED MEAT VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

	Beasts	Sheep	Pigs	Totals
Whole carcases	7	—	1	8
Quarters	8	—	—	8
Joints	—	6	4	10
Heads	47	—	73	120
Livers	59	20	—	79
Lungs	81	107	—	188
Plucks	—	—	36	36
Udders	14	—	—	14
Kidneys	20	—	—	20
Hearts	10	—	—	10
Mesenteries	28	—	71	99
Stomachs	10	—	—	10

CAUSES OF CONDEMNATIONS, AND WEIGHT.

	LBS.
Tuberculosis	9,381
Angiomatosis	198
Distomatosis	136
Parasitical Cysts	141
Cirrhosis	138
Strongylosis	189
Mammitis	68
Actinomycosis	72
Decomposition	152
Bruises	80
Nephritis	17
Abscesses	25

TOTAL WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED :—

4 tons 19 cwts. 3 qtrs. 25 lbs.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Rabbits	22
Tomatoes	56 lbs.
Fish	130 lbs.
Tinned Meats	14 tins
Tinned Fruits	43 tins
Black Pudding	6 lbs.
Sausage	18 lbs.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The following licences and renewals of licences were granted under the above Act during the year:—

New Licences	...	...	3
Renewals	...	...	24

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT, 1928.

The Staffordshire County Council is the Authority administering this Act within the district, but the following particulars have been obtained through the courtesy of Mr. A. W. Butlin, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, to whom I am grateful.

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT DURING YEAR 1937.

Date	Place	Article.	Ex'd	Gen.	Ad.	Remarks
26/5/37	Norton Canes	Milk	5	2	3	1 fat deficiency 2 added water
		Cake mixture	1	1	–	
		Tea	1	1	–	
		Milket	1	1	–	
		Lemon Barley	1	1	–	
		Castor Sugar	1	1	–	
2/6/37	Norton Canes	Milk	2	–	2	Added water.
		Blackcurrant Preserve	1	–	1	3% deficient in Fruit content.
		Raspberry Preserve	1	1	–	
		Damson Preserve	1	1	–	
		Lemon Curd	1	1	–	
3/6/37	Norton Canes	Milk	4	2	2	1 fat deficiency. 1 added water.

Cautions were issued in respect of fat deficiencies.

Prosecutions in respect of added water resulted in fines and costs amounting to £4 16s. 6d.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

During the year an Austin Twelve-Four van was purchased to replace the old horse-drawn vehicle previously used

for the purpose of conveying infected clothing. This van has proved a distinct advantage and has facilitated the working of this particular branch of work.

Disinfection of rooms, bedding and clothes has been carried out following all cases of Infectious Disease as reported in the Report of your Medical Officer of Health.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Thirty-seven caravans were removed from the district during the year, the majority being removed from the rear of licenced premises.

At the end of the year, nine occupied caravans were in the district.

PETROL AND CARBIDE LICENCES.

The following are particulars relating to licences for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium:—

	Petroleum Spirit.	Carbide of Calcium.
No. of Licences held ...	22 ...	5
No. of Licences not renewed	1 ...	4
No. of Licences renewed	1 ...	1

CANAL BOAT INSPECTIONS.

Very few cabin boats now ply the canals of the Birmingham Canal Navigation Company which pass through this district, and if boats are to be met with, constant observation would have to be kept; time required to be devoted to other more important duties, however, will not allow of this.

Three cabin boats were met with during the year: each was found to conform to the Regulations.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Laundries)	18	2	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ..	7	—	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	3	—	—
Total ..	28	2	—

2. Defects Found in Factories, Workshoks and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			No. of offences in respect to which Prosecutions instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ..	2	2	—	—
Want of Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation:				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Worshop Acts :				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouses (s.101) ..	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—

OUTWORKERS.

Only one list containing six names and addresses of outworkers was received from other Authorities. The premises at which the outwork is carried on were duly visited.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Factories	3
Bakehouses	11
Dressmakers	4
Tailoring	1
Boot Repairing	7
Blacksmiths	3
Wheelwrights	3
Cycle and Motor Repairers ...	4
Carpenters and Woodwork ...	1
Building Contractors	1
Boat Dock	1
Sand Mine	1
	39
Total Factories	3
Total Workshops	37
	40